

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on Pg. 2, ll. 18-Pg. 4, ll. 15 with the following paragraph:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGURE 1 depicts a side elevational view of the u-bolt of the preferred embodiment;

FIGURE 2 depicts a side elevational view of the u-bolt of an alternative embodiment;

FIGURE 3 depicts a side elevational view of the shaft depicting the length of the shaft;

FIGURE 4 depicts a close up view of a threaded surface on an end of the u-bolt of the preferred embodiment;

FIGURE 5 depicts a close up view of a locking thread on the u-bolt of the preferred embodiment;

FIGURE 6 depicts a close up view of the locking threads cooperating with the threads of a nut body;

FIGURE 7 depicts a close up view of the locking threads cooperating with the threads of a nut body;

FIGURE 8 depicts a close up view of the Vee-shaped threads on the u-bolt of the preferred embodiment;

FIGURE 9 depicts a close up view of the curved threads on the u-bolt of the preferred embodiment;

FIGURE 10 depicts a close up view of the curved threads on the u-bolt of an alternative embodiment;

FIGURE 11 depicts a close up view of the threaded surface on the u-bolt of an alternative embodiment;

FIGURE 12 depicts a bottom plain view of a end on the u-bolt of the presently preferred embodiment;

FIGURE 13 depicts a side elevational view of the longitudinal axis on a u-bolt;

FIGURE 13A depicts a close up view of the steel grains and the longitudinal axis on a u-bolt;

FIGURE 14 is an exploded perspective view of a nut-washer assembly;

FIGURE 15 is a side elevational view of a nut;

FIGURE 16 is a close up side elevational view of a nut;

FIGURE 17 is a side elevational view of a nut;

FIGURE 18 is a close up side elevational view of a nut;

FIGURE 19 is a bottom plain view, partially in section, of a nut and washer;

FIGURE 20 is a side elevational view, partially in section, of a washer;

FIGURE 21 is a close up side elevational view, partially in section, of a washer;

FIGURE 22 is a side elevational view, partially in section, of a washer;

FIGURE 23 is a close up side elevational view, partially in section, of a washer;

FIGURE 24 is a side elevational view, partially in section, of a washer;

FIGURE 25 is a side elevational view, partially in section, of a washer;

FIGURE 26 is a side elevational view, partially in section, of a nut-washer assembly in cooperation with a end on a u-bolt;

FIGURE 27 is a side elevational view, partially in section, of a washer;

FIGURE 28 is a bottom plain view, partially in section, of a fastener assembly of an alternative embodiment;

FIGURE 29 is a top plain view, partially in section, of a fastener assembly of an alternative embodiment;

FIGURE 30 is a side elevational view, partially in section, of a nut and washer of an alternative embodiment;

FIGURE 31 is a plain view of a quarter segment of overlying annular and bearing surfaces of a nut and washer, respectively, of an alternative embodiment, showing their relationship to each other circumferentially;

FIGURE 32 is an enlarged sectional view of an arcuate portion (on an 180 arc in the present illustration) of the faces and faces mating in the assembly of an alternative embodiment, the view depicting curved surfaces as straight because of this;

FIGURE 33 is a side elevational view, partially in section, of a nut-washer assembly;

FIGURE 34 is a close up side elevation view, partially in section, of a washer;

FIGURE 35 is a bottom plain view, partially in section, of a nut-washer assembly;

FIGURE 36 is an exploded perspective view of a washer;

FIGURE 37 is a side elevational view of a nut;

FIGURE 38 is a top plain view, partially in section, of a nut-washer assembly; [and]

FIGURE 39 is a side elevational view, of a nut-washer assembly[.] and

FIGURE 40 depicts a close up view of one embodiment of a threaded surface on an end of the u-bolt.